

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 8121

BILL NUMBER: SB 561

DATE PREPARED: Apr 10, 2001

BILL AMENDED: Apr 9, 2001

SUBJECT: Medicaid and Uninsured Parents Program.

FISCAL ANALYST: Alan Gossard

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FUNDS AFFECTED: X

X

X

GENERAL

DEDICATED

FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) *Uninsured Parents Program*: This bill establishes the Uninsured Parent's Program (UPP) within the Office of the Secretary of Family and Social Services (FSSA) to provide health insurance coverage to certain uninsured individuals. The bill provides eligibility requirements, including having an annual income of at least the AFDC standard of July 16, 1996, but not more than 100% of the federal income poverty level. The bill provides that providers enrolled under the Medicaid program are considered providers for the UPP program.

The bill repeals the Hospital Care for the Indigent (HCI) program, except for the local property tax levy authorization. It also provides for funding of the UPP program, including proceeds from the HCI property tax levies. The bill also makes changes to the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital payment structure. This bill provides that a county's share of local option income taxes and Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes will not change as a result of the repeal of the HCI property tax levy and the imposition of the Uninsured Parents Program property tax levy.

Respiratory Care Provisions: Except for certain tasks, the bill provides that respiratory care may only be performed by a respiratory care therapist or other regulated health care professional whose practice includes the respiratory care practice. It also amends the requirements for a respiratory therapist student permit.

Select Joint Committee on Medicaid Oversight Provisions: The bill requires the Select Joint Committee on Medicaid Oversight to review rules and policies before the rule or policy is amended or adopted that concern Medicaid reimbursement and the coverage of services provided under the Medicaid program.

Weight Loss Drugs: The bill also removes part of a rule that prohibits Medicaid from covering weight loss drugs.

Prescription Drugs Under Medicaid: The bill also requires Medicaid to pay for prescription drugs that meet certain federal requirements.

Effective Date: (Amended) July 1, 2000 (retroactive); January 1, 2001 (retroactive); Upon Passage; July 1, 2001; January 1, 2002; June 30, 2002; July 1, 2002; July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) This bill establishes the Uninsured Parent's Program (UPP) to provide health care to an anticipated 43,000 parents with incomes between the income standard in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) existing on July 16, 1996, (approximately 24%) and 100% of the federal poverty level. (The eligibility requirements provided in the bill currently represent incomes ranging from about \$4,158 to \$17,650 for a family of four.) The benefits included in the UPP program are inpatient and outpatient hospital services, physicians' services, laboratory and x-ray services, and emergency medical services. No new General Fund expenditures are anticipated. The program would require obtaining federal approval for an 1115 waiver in the Medicaid program. In addition, the program is not an entitlement. Eligibility parameters may be adjusted to reflect the costs of the program, the number of eligible individuals, and the available program resources.

Funding of UPP: The total expenditures for the UPP program are expected to reach \$110.5 M annually by FY 2004. The program is not an entitlement program, but would be limited by the availability of funding. The bill provides for funding of the UPP program by (1) eliminating the Hospital Care for the Indigent (HCI) program, but devoting the proceeds of the HCI property tax levy to the UPP program; and (2) taking advantage of increased federal allowance for reimbursement under the Municipal Hospital Shortfall program. These are funds that would under current programs be designated for hospitals. No new General Fund expenditures are anticipated.

The HCI program that currently provides emergency medical services for the indigent population is eliminated by the bill. The HCI property tax levy that currently funds HCI add-on payments is, instead, redirected to the State UPP Fund for use in funding the UPP program. The bill also provides for HCI levy reductions which amount to about \$8 M statewide (15.1% of HCI levies that would otherwise exist) for 2003. The total reduction in HCI funds available for the UPP program (from what would otherwise be distributed to the State HCI Fund) is \$8.76 M which would result in a total estimated funding available from this source (i.e., HCI property tax levy plus Excise and FIT tax) to be \$49.4 M in FY 2003. [In the event that the UPP program is not implemented or certain changes occur in the federal regulations, the HCI program and HCI levies are reinstituted.]

The second source of funds available for the UPP program are made available from a recent change in federal regulations that increase the upper payment limit to hospitals in the Municipal Hospital Shortfall program by 50%. The additional amounts are to be forwarded to the State UPP Fund through intergovernmental transfers and are anticipated to amount to about \$23.9 M annually.

The total amount available from the two sources can be used as the state match for expenditures in the UPP program. The federal financial participation rate would be about 62% with the state share being 38%.

Annual growth in national health expenditures for hospital care and physician services is projected by the Health Care Financing Administration to be 5.6% to 5.8% by 2004. The most recent 3-year statewide average assessed value growth quotient for the HCI levy is about 5.1%. There is no anticipated growth in the dollars available from the Municipal Hospital Shortfall program. (Consequently, the aggregate annual increase in funds based on funding shares is about 2.4%.) However, according to the bill, program eligibility requirements may be adjusted if needed to reflect costs of the program and the available resources.

Weight Loss Drugs: The bill also removes part of a rule that prohibits Medicaid from covering weight loss drugs. In addition, the bill allows FSSA, after study, to provide reimbursement for these drugs. The fiscal impact to the state will depend upon administrative decisions.

Select Joint Committee on Medicaid Oversight Provisions: The bill also requires the Select Joint Committee on Medicaid Oversight to review rules and policies regarding Medicaid reimbursement and the coverage of services provided under the Medicaid program before those rules and policies may be implemented. Any fiscal impact will depend upon whether this change in the rule-making and policy-making process alters administrative decisions that would have occurred otherwise.

Respiratory Care Provisions: This bill amends the requirements for a respiratory therapist student permit. It also provides that if the Medical Licensing Board does not establish a fee for a student permit, the fee is 50% of the fee for a license (currently \$30).

Explanation of State Revenues: See Explanation of State Expenditures, above, regarding federal financial participation in the Medicaid program.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Family and Social Services Administration.

Local Agencies Affected: Municipal Hospitals; All taxing units.

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